Financial Position of Orissa

2439. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa is the poorest State of the country with 47.15 percent of the people living below poverty lines, as reported in the Financial Express of 6th January, 2003;

(b) whether the State had been hit hard by last natural calamities and as such they have not been able to make much head-way in economy as a result;

(c) whether the State is set to achieve highly ambitious targets to control BPL etc., in the Tenth Plan, as intimated by them to Centre; and

(d) if so, help proposed to be rendered by the Central to the State to achieve these targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Orissa has the largest proportion of population below the poverty line. The State has also suffered a serious of natural calamities in the recent past.

(c) The Government of Orissa has set a target of reduction of poverty ratio by five percentage points by 2007 during the Tenth Plan.

(d) The approved outlay for the Ninth Plan of Orissa was Rs. 14631 crore, against which the State Government incurred an expenditure of Rs. 12115 crore *i.e.* about 83 percent. The outlay for the Tenth Paln is Rs. 19.000 crore. The Central Government supplements the development efforts of the State Government, including Orissa, through various poverty alleviation and income generation schemes, schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme, etc. along with various other Centrally Sponsored Schemes under which the State Government of Orissa can utilise funds to ensure poverty alleviation and development. In addition to the above schemes, a Special Plan has been drawn up by

the State Government for the undivided Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) districts of the State which includes schemes for drought proofing, livelihood support, health services and disadvantaged groups which will help mitigate the poverty related problems of this area. This Plan is funded under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana on a 100 per cent grant basis and an amount of Rs. 100 crore has already been released in the current year.

Declaration of Kolhapur-Nagpur Road as National Highway

2440. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have acceded to the request of the Maharashtra Government to declare Kolhapur-Nagpur road as National Highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Ring Road of Nagpur city has been included in the Golden quadrilateral project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All the proposals for conversion of State Highways into National Highways have been returned to the State Government of Maharashtra. Presently there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to fund constrainst. The Government may, however, consider conversion of very limited lengths of a few State Highways into National Highways during the course of the 10th Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.